

the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and later for Senator William J. Fulbright. Lucille remained active in Democratic politics, serving as an election official in Democratic primaries and general elections in Howard County.

She remained an active and influential member of the community through her volunteer service and civic activities. She was a charter member of the Mine Creek Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a Board member of the Nashville Cemetery Association, and a Board member and President of the Howard County Library System.

Lucille's thirst for knowledge led her to become the area's unofficial historian. In this capacity, she co-founded the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives in Washington, Arkansas where she volunteered for 24 years, serving as Director of the Archives from 1990–2002. Other projects important to her included working to restore and preserve buildings in nearby Washington and completing a book about the Corinth area in Howard County.

I know the impact which individuals like Lucille can have on a small community. She continually made a priority of helping others learn more about their neighborhoods, communities and family heritages. In 1979, the Arkansas Historical Association recognized her work in preserving the role of history in our lives by establishing an annual \$500 award, named in her honor, to the author of the best report on a topic in Arkansas history.

I extend my warmest sympathies to her brother Parker Westbrook of Nashville, her extended family, and the countless friends and individuals who knew and loved Lucille.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF LT. COLONEL PETE GANDY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of one of my constituents, who will soon be joining the ranks of the retired commissioned officers of the United States Air Force, Lt. Colonel Pete Gandy.

Colonel Gandy, a master navigator with 3,600 flying hours and a graduate of the Squadron Officers School and Air Command and Staff College, has served his country honorably and faithfully for the past thirty years.

Upon graduation through the ROTC program at Memphis State University, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force. Colonel Gandy later received training as a navigator at Mather Air Force Base in California.

Throughout Colonel Gandy's career, he was assigned a multitude of important missions for the betterment of our country's security. His work history and past responsibilities have served as a testament of faith and trust that America has bestowed upon him.

While on active duty, he was assigned Chief of the Munitions Maintenance Division, 1st Strategic Air Division at Vandenberg AFB, California, where he was responsible for test launches for Minuteman III and Titan II ICBM re-entry vehicles. Colonel Gandy also served at Strategic Air Command Headquarters at Offutt AFB, Nebraska where he was involved

with planning and installation of Minuteman III missiles at SAC bases in North Dakota.

After his training as a radar navigator, Colonel Gandy was assigned to a B-52 combat crew of the 5th Bomb Wing, Minot AFB, North Dakota. He served as an instructor and flight examiner with the Wing's Standardization and Evaluation Division during his ARC Light tour to U Tapao Air Base, Thailand and Anderson, AFB, Guam. Upon Colonel Gandy's return to the United States, he received orders to the Plans, Policy, and Programs Division at Headquarters SAC where he worked to increase our Nation's security.

While on inactive duty in the Tennessee Air National Guard as a C-130 navigator, he participated in numerous exercises and deployments to Europe, Central and South America, and Southwest Asia in support of Operations Just Cause and Desert Shield.

In July 1993 Colonel Gandy received a commission in the Louisiana State Guard, promoted to the rank of Colonel, and served as the Disaster Preparedness Liaison for the City of New Orleans. This assignment made him a key player with the state and the city to improve hurricane preparedness.

During his career he was awarded the Defense Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Air Medal for Meritorious Achievement, among others.

Much of his success was due to the total and unwavering support of his wife, Janice and two children David and Tricia.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize this brave airman for the example he has set for our country, and for Northwest Florida. I offer my sincere thanks for all that he has done for Northwest Florida and the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO MARK MARCHUS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mark Marchus and thank him for his many contributions to Routt County, Colorado. After 6 years of impeccable service to the Routt County Regional Building Department, Mark announced his impending retirement. He has done much to enhance his community, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his service.

During his tenure with the Routt County Regional Building Department, Mark distinguished himself as an able and competent leader. He made the department more customer friendly, and was instrumental in developing a computer tracking system to aid contractors to monitor each step involved in receiving a building permit. He also implemented an interactive voice system that allows contractors to request building inspections until Midnight the day before. These technological improvements significantly improved the department's efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Mark Marchus and wish him all the best as he steps down on April 30 from the Routt County Regional Building Department. He has dedicated his time and energy toward the betterment of the Routt county community and cer-

tainly deserves the praise and admiration of this body of Congress and this Nation. Mark, thank you for your dedicated service.

CONGRATULATING CHARLES FLACK UPON RECEIVING THE B'NAI B'RITH COMMUNITY SERV- ICE AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my very good friend, Charles "Rusty" Flack, Jr., of Dallas, Pennsylvania, who received the Community Service Award from the Seligman J. Strauss Lodge No. 139 of the B'nai B'rith. Mr. Flack received the award on February 22, 2004 at the 58th annual Lincoln Day Dinner. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Flack for this well-deserved honor and expressing our appreciation for the positive contributions he has made to Northeastern Pennsylvania as both a businessman and as a member of the community.

For nearly a quarter of a century, Mr. Flack has served as Chairman and CEO of Diamond Manufacturing Company, a West Wyoming-based company that employs 250 individuals and has grown to become North America's largest supplier of perforated metals. In 1998, the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry bestowed upon Diamond Manufacturing Company its Small Business of the Year Award, and in 2001, Diamond Manufacturing earned the distinction of being one of the Best Places to Work in Pennsylvania. These achievements are especially noteworthy because Rusty and his brother Hal inherited Diamond Manufacturing under tragic circumstances when their father died suddenly at an early age. Although only in their twenties when they took over the business, Rusty and Hal have led Diamond not only to survive, but to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I do not rise today merely to extol the success Mr. Flack has had as a businessman, though those accomplishments should not be dismissed. Despite the responsibilities any small business demands from its owner, Rusty has always remained involved in numerous civic, religious and educational endeavors and organizations. In each instance, he has performed with a commitment worthy of the award he is about to receive. I have called upon him myself on numerous occasions to seek his counsel and request his assistance in mediating difficult situations. The respect with which he is held within the community helped enormously in bringing adverse parties together.

Among his many civic activities, Mr. Flack currently serves as Chairman of the Wyoming Valley Health Care System, the largest employer in Luzerne County; as the treasurer of the Wyoming Seminary, a prominent K-12 preparatory school in Northeastern Pennsylvania; and as a trustee for the College of Misericordia, a leading institution of higher learning. As an active member of the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in Dallas, Pennsylvania, Mr. Flack has sung in the choir, taught religion to young churchgoers, and served in the vestry as a senior warden.

Mr. Speaker, earning the esteem of the B'nai B'rith deserves this body's recognition because it is a widely respected organization dedicated to the community it shares with people of all faiths. It is a privilege for me to stand before the House of Representatives to honor an individual like Charles "Rusty" Flack, Jr. I offer my deepest congratulations to him on his becoming a recipient of a Community Service Award, and I urge my colleagues to join Seligman J. Strauss Lodge No. 139 and me in extending our gratitude and admiration to a remarkable citizen who has distinguished himself as a businessman and a civic leader.

**KERRY STATEMENT CALLING
SIKHS TERRORISTS A MISTAKE**

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as an American and a Democrat, it was not good news when I was informed by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, that Senator JOHN KERRY, the frontrunner for my party's nomination for President, had made a speech in Oklahoma on January 31 in which he described the Sikhs as terrorists. This is a mistake on Senator KERRY's part and one I hope he will correct promptly.

I have been following South Asian affairs for some time now and I can tell you that Sikhs are committed to freedom. I have met members of the Sikh community here in the United States, which is half a million strong, and they are hardworking people who are dedicated to their families, their religion, America, and freedom for their Sikh brothers and sisters back home in Punjab, Khalistan.

The Indian government has been oppressing the Sikhs ever since independence. Shortly after India got its independence, the Indian government sent out a memo describing Sikhs as "a criminal class" and ordering police to take special measures to suppress them. This is shameful. Since 1984, India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs, according to the Punjab State Magistracy and human-rights organizations. They hold over 52,000 political prisoners. Some have been in illegal custody without charge or trial for 20 years, Mr. Speaker. Two decades! Is that a democratic way to do things?

India's propaganda machine is working overtime to maintain this false picture of Sikhs as a "criminal class" devoted to terrorism. They have even hired two lobbying firms, expensive ones, to carry out this work. Unfortunately, it appears that they managed to misinform the Senator from Massachusetts on this matter. I am sure he will correct himself soon, and I urge him to do so.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, it is up to us to do what we can to press for democracy in the subcontinent. Cutting off India's aid would be a good start. This is one of the most effective ways to promote basic human rights for everyone in South Asia. Another very effective means would be to call on India to hold a free and fair vote on the question of independence, the democratic way. By doing this, we help bring the glow of freedom and the blessings of liberty to everyone in that troubled part of the world.

I also call on Senator KERRY to recognize the legitimate aspirations of the Sikhs and the others fighting to free themselves from the yoke of Indian oppression. That they are doing so by peaceful, democratic, nonviolent means shows that the Indian government's picture of them as terrorists is false. I await the Senator's correction.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to add the Council of Khalistan's letter to Senator KERRY requesting a correction and repudiation of his statement to the RECORD so that people can see the real situation in South Asia.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,

Washington, DC, February 11, 2004.

Senator JOHN F. KERRY,

U.S. Senate,

Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR KERRY: I am writing to you today on behalf of half a million Sikh Americans and over 25 million Sikhs worldwide to say that your remarks equating Sikhs with terrorists were offensive to the Sikh community. While giving a speech in Oklahoma, you referred to "the Sikhs in India" as an example of terrorism.

Sikhism is an independent, monotheistic, revealed religion, not a part of any other religion. Sikhs are distinctive by our religion, language, and culture from any other people on Earth.

Sikhs ruled Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849. Sikhs, Hindus, Muslims, and Christians all participated in the government. Sikhs are a separate nation and people.

At the time of India's independence, three nations were to receive sovereign power: the Muslims, who got Pakistan, the Hindus, who got India, and the Sikhs. Sikhs took their share with India on the solemn promise that Sikhs would enjoy "the glow of freedom" in Punjab and no law affecting Sikh rights would be passed without our consent. Instead, almost as soon as the ink was dry on India's independence, Nehru sent out a directive describing Sikhs as "a criminal class" and ordering police to take extraordinary measures against us.

Since June 1984, India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human rights groups and published in the book *The Politics of Genocide* by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. A report from the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted to holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. Indian forces carried out the March 2000 massacre in the village of Chithisinghpura, according to two independent investigations. Indian forces were caught red-handed trying to set fire to a Sikh Gurdwara and Sikh homes in a village in Kashmir. Sikh and Muslim villagers joined hands to stop them.

The book *Soft Target*, written by two Canadian journalists, Zuhair Kashmeri of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* and Brian McAndrew of the *Toronto Star*, shows conclusively that the Indian government blew up its own airliner in 1985, killing 329 innocent people, to blame it on the Sikhs and have an excuse for more repression.

Other minorities such as Christians and Muslims, among others, have also felt the lash of Indian repression. Over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland have been killed by the terrorist Indian regime. Nuns have been raped, priests have been murdered, churches have been burned, schools and prayer halls have been destroyed, all with impunity. A mob of militant Hindus affiliated with the parent organization of the ruling BJP mur-

dered missionary Graham Staines and his two sons by burning them to death while they slept in their jeep, all the while chanting "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. India threw missionary Joseph Cooper from Pennsylvania out of the country after he was beaten so severely that he had to spend a week in the hospital. A Christian religious festival on the theme "Jesus is the answer" was broken up by police gunfire.

Almost two years ago, Muslims were massacred in Gujarat while police were ordered to stand by and do nothing, according to Indian newspaper reports. One newspaper quoted a policeman as saying that the Indian government planned the massacre in advance. This is an eerie parallel to the 1984 massacre of Sikhs in Delhi, in which police were locked in their barracks while the state-run radio and television called for more Sikh blood.

An Indian Cabinet minister was quoted as saying that everyone who lives in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hindus. This kind of religious fanaticism as state policy is dangerous and anti-democratic. We would not want it in America; why should we support it in India?

On October 7, 1987, Sikhs declared their independence from India, naming their new country Khalistan. We are committed to liberating Khalistan by peaceful, democratic, nonviolent means. History shows that multinational states such as Austria-Hungary, the Soviet Union, and India are doomed to fall apart. We intend to see that this happens peacefully, in the manner of Czechoslovakia, not violently like Yugoslavia. Yet simply supporting a sovereign, independent Khalistan is what India calls terrorism.

The 20,000 Sikhs who were murdered in the June 1984 attack on the Golden Temple and 37 other Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab were not terrorists. They were seeking refuge from the Indian government's tyranny. Yet the Indian government insists on describing them as "terrorists," as if repeating it often enough will make it true.

Senator Kerry, we respectfully request that you apologize to the Sikh Nation and the Sikh community in the United States for your remark. I urge you to support measures to bring freedom to all the people of the subcontinent. Sikhs share the commitment to freedom you showed when you fought in Vietnam and in your service in public office. There was even a Sikh member of Congress in the late 1950s, Dalip Singh Saund of California. We look forward to working with you in the future to bring the blessings of liberty to everyone in the subcontinent.

If you would like any further information or would like to meet about these issues, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,

President, Council of Khalistan.

**HONORING THE VIETNAMESE
BHIKSHU BUDDHIST COUNCIL'S
CEREMONIAL REMEMBRANCE OF
MASTER MINH DANG QUANG**

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the San Jose Vietnamese Bhikshu Buddhist Council's annual remembrance of Buddhist Master Minh Dang Quang.

According to the Bhikshu Buddhist Council, Master Minh Dang Quang founded the indigenous Vietnamese Buddhist Order "Tang Gia